

# WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Tuesday, January 6, 1914.

**Curing Tobacco.**

"Can you tell me if any one has ever cured tobacco with coal? If so, I would like to know how to build the furnace." I do not know of any one using coal in curing tobacco, but I will like to know how to build the furnace. To build such a furnace you start the walls of the furnace straight up and make a shoulder in the brick work on which the grate bars can rest.

You can buy the bars separately and the cast iron front in which the doors will be, and this front must be set up and built in with the brick work. Such furnaces were formerly used with brick flues to heat greenhouses, and I have no doubt but that some of the firms building heating apparatus for greenhouses may still have some of the old cast iron fronts and grates on hand, and can send you directions for setting up the furnace. Try Hitchings & Co., Elizabeth, N. J.

**Pruning Grape Vines.**

Nottoway County: "Please state in the Times-Dispatch when is the best time to prune grape vines to prevent bleeding?" This depends on what kind of grapes you mean. The Scuppernon, and varieties of that class, should be pruned in November for best results, as they bleed excessively when pruned in late winter. But the varieties of the bunch grapes of the Labrusca and other similar species should not be pruned in our climate till just before the buds swell in spring. Here and southward we are subject at times to sudden reverses in the spring, and vines pruned in the fall will start much earlier in the spring than those not pruned at that time, and will sometimes get caught after the young shoots have started. In 1889-90 we had an exceedingly mild winter, and everything at Raleigh, N. C. got into the ground as early as February. Vines that had been pruned in the fall made long shoots at that time, and early in March came a freeze, and the young growth on these vines was all killed back, while vines pruned in the spring had not started. We had the same reverse in the spring of 1904. March was very warm and summer-like, and everything got into growth. I was then experimenting with grapes in the vineyard around the North Carolina settlers had pruned their vines in the fall, but I remembered the previous disaster and let mine alone. On the 26th of March the mercury fell from 35 down to 29, and my vines had hardly swelled to any extent, while the pruned vines around me had made shoots six inches long and were all killed back, while mine were unharmed. I have since learned that in the upper south we had better defer the pruning till just before the buds open. Then, whatever bleeding takes place will soon be stopped by the opening foliage and no harm done. Here, where we live in the southeast corner of Maryland, I never prune my vines till about the 10th of March, and that will be early enough usually in Nottoway. Of course, there is some difference in the seasons, and one should watch the vines, and prune as soon as there are indications that the buds are about to swell. But do not prune in the fall, except of the Scuppernon class. These naturally start late in the spring, and are rarely caught by late frosts, and they bleed less when pruned in November and December than any other time. In fact, the only pruning they need is to cut out stunted growth and train out the long canes one and two years old full length.

**A Precocious Peach Tree.**

Sussex County: "I have a peach tree which will soon be in bloom. It bloomed for the first time last January, and all the blooms were killed. Can you suggest any plan by which I can protect the tree, and keep the blossoms from being killed? A few of the old leaves are green on the tree at present, and young leaves are putting out. A few blossoms are wide open now, and the remainder are very much swollen. The leaves that are now putting out do not get killed by the frosts, but grow right along till spring. The tree is about ten feet tall and as many as thirty branches. It is a very peculiar tree, and reminds me of my experience with the peach tree that they grow in Florida. I had two trees of the peach in an orchard in North Carolina, and they persistently bloomed in December and January. Not expecting that I would ever get fruit on them I paid little attention to them. But at one mild winter I happened to be in the orchard in May and to my surprise I found the peach-trees full of ripe fruit, though there had been some smart frosts in March. How they never froze I never covered. You do not say what variety of peach yours is, but it does behave very much like the peach-tee. Probably you have it in a warm and sunny exposure, and that will cause any peach to be premature. I once made an ex-

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periment by spraying peach trees all over with whitewash, the idea being that the white color would reflect the heat and retard the blooming, and it did to a very considerable extent. The row of trees whitewashed was on the south side of the orchard that sloped to the north, and these trees put out later than unsprayed trees north of them. You can do nothing now to protect the tree other than throwing some sort of a tent or cover over it. Then next fall try the spraying with whitewash, and it may have some effect.

**Fertilizer for Tobacco—Grass Mixture.** King William County: "I have some land that was in oak timber. It was cleared last year and worked in fucured tobacco. It is light gray soil, with light clay subsoil. We want to raise fine-cured tobacco on it again this season coming, and in the fall need it down to a grass mixture best suited to the land. I think the land needs lime, but do not know. Please give me what assistance you can, as I know nothing about farming, and want to know the best fertilizer for tobacco and for the grass." It is not a good plan to repeat the same crop on land. But as your land is new, it will do better than old land. The best fertilizer for bright tobacco that I have tried, and have always given in those columns, has done finely on old land in North Carolina. This is 900 pounds of 16 per cent acid phosphate, 100 pounds of pure dried blood, 400 pounds of pure dried blood, 400 pounds of high grade sulphate of potash, to make a ton.

This was used in Granville County, N. C., at rate of 700 pounds per acre. But on your fresh land 500 pounds will be sufficient per acre. I suppose that you want the grass mixture for the following crop. Tall Meadow Fescue, ten pounds; Tall Meadow oat-grass, ten pounds; Red clover, ten pounds, for an acre. Sow the grass seed and then sow the clover seed, and keep the soil well mixed with the lighter grass seed. If sown early in the fall the clover should do well. If you want the grass for a permanent pasture, I would make different mixture, and could use ten pounds of Orchard grass, 20 pounds of Sheep Fescue or Red Top grass and five pounds of blue grass, and scatter some white clover seed, and mix with five pounds of alfalfa seed. You can ascertain whether your land needs lime, as I have repeatedly shown, by getting some blue litmus paper slips from a drug store and mixing up some of the soil with water and putting the paper in it. If, in half an hour or less, it turns pink, it shows that the soil is acid and needs lime. But do not lime ahead of the tobacco, for it will darken the tobacco; but lime after tobacco and after plowing for the grass, and harrow the lime in on the fresh plowing.

As to the fertilizer, I have a letter to you from a farmer in South Carolina, who states that his neighbors and himself used the fertilizer I advised and made \$2500 an acre of their tobacco this year. All of which is, of course, pleasant news to me.

**Preparing Land for Vegetables.**

North Carolina: "I have three acres of newly cleared sandy land that I wish to put in vegetables. Land was cleared last spring and put in corn and peas, with a light dressing of commercial fertilizer, and made about ten bushels of corn an acre. I apply fifteen to twenty cords of stable manure this fall and plow and cut it fine and apply another good dressing in the spring, do you think it will do for growing onions, carrots, beets, etc.? Some say that the land is too raw for such crops. I expect, of course, to use commercial fertilizer liberally before planting." From my own experience with the land in your immediate neighborhood, I think that you should have limed it last spring, ahead of the corn planting. But the manure now and in the spring will be all right if you are then liberal with commercial fertilizer. To show you how gardeners on similar soil fertilize, I will say what I have had in a letter from a gardener on Long Island. He covers his land with the fall with stable manure and in spring applied a ton of fertilizer an acre that ran about 6 per cent nitrogen, 8 per cent phosphoric acid and 5 per cent potash. This was used after covering the land well over with stable manure.

The same gardener wrote that last spring he prepared half an acre for Chesapeake strawberry plants, and used on it 200 pounds of dried blood, 200 pounds of bone meal, 400 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of muriate of potash, or at rate of a ton an acre. And now he intends to give the strawberries a winter mulch of coarse stable manure. This is on land that has been already manured and worked in vegetable crops. Your sandy soil, that only made ten bushels of corn an acre this year, will need very heavy manuring and fertilization to grow even moderately good crops of vegetables. Cover the land with manure and well let it lie till the middle of all winter. Plow it under in the early spring and then get a very high-grade fertilizer or one rich in nitrogen and potash and use a ton an acre, and you may get that land to make good crops. The mixture I have given another correspondent above for tobacco will answer very well for vegetables, if used heavily.

**Soil for Alfalfa.**

"I have twelve acres of sandy loam bottom land now in clover. The remainder of my land is red and mixed hills. Which will be best for alfalfa? If the bottom land is well above any overflow, it will be by far the best place for alfalfa, and as it grows clover, I suppose it is well enough drained for alfalfa. But use the clover next season, and do not sow alfalfa in the spring; for the crab grass will be certain to smother it. You can turn a clover sod in August and apply about a ton an acre of slaked lime and harrow it in on the plowing. Then apply 400 pounds an acre of acid phosphate and forty pounds of the muriate of potash and sow twenty-five to thirty pounds of alfalfa seed the last of August or early September. Then, getting a good stand, watch it, and if it turns yellow, as it often will, mow it off once, or sow will look better. Then mowing off the yellow alfalfa will renew it, and it will come all right. This is a mysterious habit of alfalfa, and the cause is not understood.

Whether you are a farmer or not, and are interested in some friends who are farmers, I think that a good Christmas gift would be a year's subscription to The Times-Dispatch, for we are endeavoring to make the Farmers' columns as useful as possible to the Southern farmers by trying to write them what they are wanting to know, for most of what I write is in reply to letters of inquiry from farmers, and these replies may help others besides those making the inquiry. It would be too great a task for me to write personal replies to every one, while in the paper I can reach thousands, and these columns are prepared in the hope that they will help the men who are cultivating the soil in farm or garden or orchard.

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## BOWLING

The Remingtons and the Vaughan-Robertson Drug Company teams of the Commercial League appeared on the alleys last night in fine form. The drug team showed up with several new men in the line-up, but failed to win a single game. Beardsley and Ames were high rollers of the evening.

To-night the champion Alces meet the Richmond Lunch on the Newport Alleys in the Richmond League. The Fonticello Springs will battle with the O. L. Berry & Co. aggregation to-night in the Petersburg Bowling Association, yet their regular scheduled game in the Central League.

**Petersburg Wants a Match.** Whit Whitman, of the Newport Alley, received a letter from President E. L. Frele, of the Petersburg Bowling Association, yesterday asking for a match with the Alces team of this city. The Cockade boys will bring over about twelve strong players, and judging from their average the locals will have to go some to defeat them.

Arrangements are now being made, and the match will be played Thursday night on the Newport Alley. This is the first inter-city series of the year, and should attract a large crowd of rooters.

**Remingtons.**  
Lowery (Capt.)..... 1 2 3 Total.  
A. L. Davis..... 197 166 182 545  
Beardsley..... 214 172 164 550  
Thorne..... 144 132 122 398  
Amos..... 213 171 160 544  
Burnette..... 145 102 94 341

**Vaughan-Robertson Drug Co.**  
Phelps..... 152 167 160 479  
Sullivan..... 176 165 152 493  
Fitzschner..... 146 173 129 448  
Beck..... 143 167 142 452  
Richardson..... 145 152 140 437

**Palace Alleys.** The Journal press boys captured two out of three games last night from the strong Palace five in the Palace National Duckpin League. The games were close, the Palace boys winning the first game by twelve pins, and losing the second game by three pins, and the third by twenty-one pins. Rowsey captured his own average, Doherty, of the Palace boys, was star bowler on his team.

**Journal.**  
Jordan..... 50 52 50 Total.  
Tucker..... 101 49 56 206  
Carter..... 80 59 113 252  
Rowsey..... 102 114 58 274

**Palace.**  
Andy..... 55 51 55 161  
Perdue..... 83 111 59 253  
Campbell..... 52 58 58 168  
Doherty..... 54 56 102 212  
C. H. Cosby..... 194 105 82 381

**Supreme Court Meets To-Day.** The Supreme Court of Appeals will meet to-day for the January term for the hearing of argument. The court will probably be in session several weeks. Opinions on cases heretofore argued are expected to be handed down on January 15.

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## RULES FOR PAYING YOUR INCOME TAX

Treasury Department Sends Out Form, So That None May Go Astray.

**HEAVY PENALTIES PROVIDED**

Failure to Comply With Demands Means Fine and Maybe Prison.

Washington, January 5.—The form to be used and regulations to be followed by individuals in making returns of income, subject to the new Federal income tax, were sent out to-day by the Treasury Department. Every citizen of the United States, whether residing at home or abroad, every person residing in the United States, and every nonresident alien who has an income from United States investments of \$3,000 or more, must make returns.

For the past year, 1913, specific exemptions will be \$2,500, or \$3,333.33 in the case of a married person, and in future years \$3,000 and \$4,000. Where the tax has been withheld on part of the income at the source, or where part of the income comes as dividends upon stock of a corporation taxable under the corporation tax section of the law, the regulations set forth that such income shall be deducted from the individual's total net income when computing the amount on which he is taxable.

The law imposes a tax of 1 per cent, and provides that individuals who have an income between \$20,000 and \$50,000 shall pay an additional tax of 1 per cent on such amount; on all between \$50,000 and \$75,000, 2 per cent; \$75,000 to \$100,000, 3 per cent; \$100,000 to \$250,000, 4 per cent; \$250,000 to \$500,000, 5 per cent, and all over \$500,000, 6 per cent. Returns must be in the hands of the collector of internal revenue in the district where the taxpayer lives, or where he has his principal place of business, not later than March 1, failure to observe this limit to be punished with fines ranging from \$20 to \$100.

**Heavy Penalties.** Refusal or neglect to file returns, except in case of sickness or absence, will result in an addition of 50 per cent to the tax assessed. In the case of failure or refusal to pay the tax, 100 per cent will be added to the tax assessed, and any person required to make, render, sign or verify such return, who makes a false or fraudulent statement with intent to defraud or evade the tax, will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for one year, or both. An extension of thirty days from March 1 in case of sickness or absence may be allowed by the proper collector, provided an application is made by the individual concerned. Returns must be accompanied by oath or affirmation.

Expenses for medical attendance, store accounts, family supplies, wages of domestic servants and other board, room or house rent shall not be deducted from gross income, and individuals who own their own residences cannot deduct the estimated value of the rent.

The farmer is required to include in his net income all money from produce and animals sold, for wool and hides of slaughtered animals, provided these are sold. He may deduct the sums actually paid for the animals sold or slaughtered during the year, but the value of animals raised shall not be deducted as expenses or loss. The farmer also may deduct money paid as expenses for producing farm products, live stock, etc., and for repairs for the current year. The cost of tools or machinery may be deducted.

Persons receiving fees or emoluments for personal or other services must include all actual receipts for services during the year, together with all unpaid accounts, charges for services or contingent income for the year "if good and collectable."

**Worthless Debts Deducted.** Debts contracted within a current year may be deducted from gross income, when found worthless, but not before legal proceedings have proved unavailing. Debts contracted in previous years, which eventually prove worthless, may be deducted subsequently under the head of losses, when they are charged off.

Amounts due or accrued to individual members of a partnership from net earnings shall be included in the return of the individual, whether distributed or not, and United States pensions must be included as income. Estimated advance of real estate value is not required to be reported unless placed as an asset on the individual's books. Costs of suits and other legal proceedings arising out of ordinary business may be treated as expense and deducted from gross income of a business.

In computing net income, compensation of all officers and employees of a

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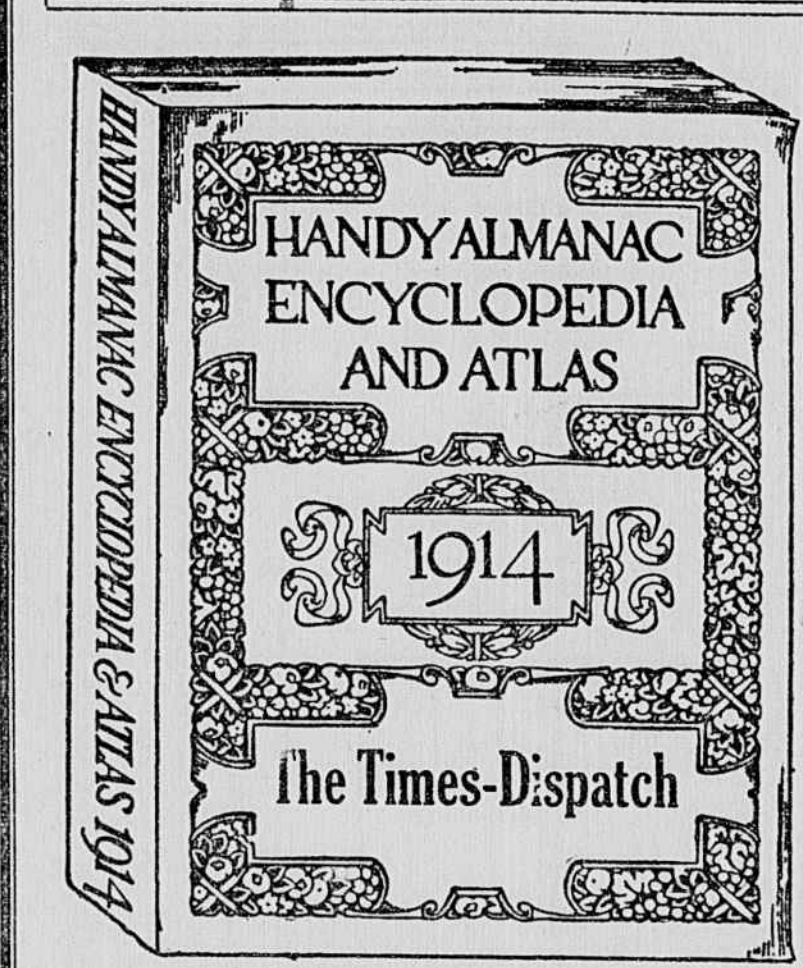
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State or any political subdivision thereof shall be excluded, but not where paid by the United States.

**Arrested for Stabbing.** William Dabney and John Williams, negroes, were arrested yesterday by Police-men Jordan, Jones and Napier on the charge of stabbing Eugene H. Riddle, a George Trusty, colored, was arrested by Officers Jordan and Ryan on the charge of stabbing Jessie Monroe.

**Building Permits.** Building permits were issued yesterday as follows: W. A. Grafton, to build a two-story brick tenement, containing two stores and dwellings, at 831-23 West Cary Street, \$5,000. R. and J. Plouffe, to build a two-story brick tenement, containing two stores and dwellings, at 831-23 West Cary Street, \$5,000. Southern Photo Plays Theatre Company, to repair the Orpheum Theatre, at 88 East Broad Street, \$1,000. L. H. Mundin, to repair frame dwelling at 115 North Twenty-fourth Street, \$125.

**Benjamin Jacobs Bankrupt.** Benjamin Jacobs, of 25 North Seven-

teenth Street, yesterday filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in the United States District Court. His liabilities were estimated at \$3,538.50, and his assets \$1,900. Melvin Flegenhelm was appointed receiver by Judge Edmund Waddill, Jr. Those holding large claims against Jacobs are: A. G. Harman, rent, \$288; W. F. Kellum, \$485; Robert M. Green & Sons, Philadelphia, \$700; L. H. Mundin, \$275; Charles E. Brauer Company, \$201.

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